

# ECA HUB

## East and Central Africa Global Competitiveness Hub (ECA Hub)

The East and Central Africa Global Competitiveness Hub, one of four Hubs in the Africa region, was established to support the Trade for Africa Development and Enterprise Initiative, to help African businesses take better advantage of African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). There are three major partners: COMESA - The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; TTCA-NC - Transit Transport Coordinating Authority of the Northern Corridor; and EAC – East Africa Community.

The role of the Hub, based in Nairobi, Kenya is to increase trade and competitiveness in the region by: 1) increasing regional integration; 2) reducing the time and cost of transport in the region; 3) strengthening the capacity of East and Central African countries to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system; and 4) implementing private sector business support strategies to increase trade under AGOA.

Activities under ECA Hub ended September 30, 2008 however USAID/East Africa will continue to support ECA Hub objectives under the COMPETE project.

For more information visit:  
[www.competeafrica.com](http://www.competeafrica.com)  
[www.ecatradehub.com](http://www.ecatradehub.com)



## Selected Achievements to Date

### Regional Integration

- One-stop Border Crossings: The Hub partnered with the Trade and Transit Coordination Authority to design a one-stop border crossing at Malaba. The one-stop crossing has reduced customs clearance time from 3 days to 3 hours.
- Common interface: The hub helped create a common interface between Kenyan & Ugandan customs computer systems that meets international standards as per World Customs Organization rules in the Revised Kyoto Convention.

### COMESA Regional Customs Transit Guarantee (RCTG)

- The ECA Hub designed an IT Management System (RADDEX) for the COMESA Regional Customs Transit Guarantee (RCTG) scheme. The RCTG has just been launched and expects to issue the first bonds this year. The new system will reduce bond acquittal from months to weeks and will free \$500 million in investment capital.
- The RADDEX solution enables customs data to be communicated instantly from point of transit origin, through all points of transit, to the point of destination.

### WTO Participation

- Completed the Framework for a COMESA Trade in Services Agreement and sponsored related training for 68 African government officials.
- Sponsored regional trade flows analysis that identified \$1 billion in untapped trade potential.

### African Growth and Opportunities Act

- Investments to support US-East Africa trade have yielded \$182 in exports for every one dollar spent.
- AGOA-related HUB activities have generated over \$29 million in exports to the US.
- Over 150 companies have received training and technical assistance with 45% women owned/managed.
- National AGOA strategies have been developed for 9 countries.
- Held sub-regional AGOA workshop on textiles, interior decorations, handicrafts, and leather goods. One hundred twenty-five government officials and business people attended from both the U.S. and Africa.

Last updated: July 2009